

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 /076 W

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R 151859Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8875

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 665

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 4357

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EEC IR

SUBJECT: EC/IRAN: SOAMES VISIT

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 3828; B. TEHRAN 4597; C. EC BRUSSELS 3925

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO BRUSSELS MAY 15, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES SAID IRAN HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT WANTS A PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (REF B). SOAMES SAID HE TOLD THE IRANIANS THE COMMISSION CONTINUES TO FAVOR A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH IRAN WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BUT NOT PROVIDE SPECIAL TRADE PREFERENCES ALONG LINES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AGREEMENTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING HE SAID THE EC SEEKS TO DEVELOP AN EC-WIDE "ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT" WITH IRAN. (FOR THE GENERAL ISSUES RAISED BY THIS APPROACH SEE PARAS 9 AND 10 OF REF C.)

3. SOAMES NOTED DURING THE QUESTIONING THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WHICH EMERGES BETWEEN THE EC AND CANADA WILL HAVE AN IN-UNCLASSIFIED

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FLUENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP TO BE DEVELOPED WITH IRAN.

4. ANSWERING A QUESTION REGARDING LIKELY PRODUCT COVERAGE OF ANY PROPOSED EC/IRAN ACCORD, SOAMES SAID THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TALK DETAILS BUT THAT CERTAINLY OIL AND REFINED PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED.

5. SOAMES SAID THAT EXPLORATORY TALKS ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOMETIME IN JUNE, WITH SESSIONS HELD IN BOTH BRUSSELS AND TEHRAN.GREENWALD

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